

## Board of Directors

Sanford I. Weill - Chairman  
Founder, NAF

Kenneth I. Chenault – Vice Chairman  
Chairman and Managing Director, General Catalyst

Robert F. Smith – Vice Chairman  
Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,  
Vista Equity Partners

Eugene A. Ludwig - Secretary  
Chief Executive Officer, SpringHarbor Financial

Jeffrey A. Brill  
Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate,  
Meagher & Flom LLP

Ursula M. Burns  
Chairwoman, Teneo Ltd.  
Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Veon  
Ltd, Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,  
Xerox Corporation

Lynne M. Doughtie  
Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,  
KPMG

Lisa Dughi  
Chief Executive Officer, NAF

Alex Gorsky  
Executive Chairman, Johnson & Johnson

Gregory J. Hayes  
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer,  
Raytheon Technologies

Erin McSweeney  
Chief People Officer  
United Health Group

Jennifer Morgan  
Global Head, Portfolio Operations

Nicola Palmer,  
Chief Technology Ambassador,  
Verizon

Thomas Penny III  
President, Donohoe Hospitality Services

Marc Reed  
Former Executive Vice President and  
Strategic Advisor to the Chairman,  
Verizon Communications

Larry Renfro  
Founder and Managing Partner, Optum Ventures

James D. Robinson III  
General Partner and Co-Founder,  
RRE Ventures

David L. Steward  
Founder and Chairman,  
World Wide Technology

Joseph M. Tucci  
Chairman & Co-Founder,  
Bridge Growth Partners

Marc Weill  
Senior Advisor, Two Sigma Ventures

Matthew Zielinski  
SVP, President International Sales Organization,  
Lenovo

Shatiek Gatlin  
Ex Officio Board Member and Chair, NAF Alumni  
Leadership Council



September 20, 2023

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Chairman  
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions  
Committee  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Marshall  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Primary Health &  
Retirement Security  
479A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Sanders and Marshall:

Thank you for working together to introduce legislation to address the significant workforce needs of our nation's healthcare sector and to invest in programs, which will improve the pipeline for this workforce for years to come.

NAF is a national nonprofit organization that brings together education, business, and community leaders to ensure high school students are college, career, and future ready. For over 40 years, NAF has partnered with high schools in historically under-resourced communities to enhance school systems by implementing NAF academies – small, focused learning communities within traditional public high schools themed around growing industries, including health sciences. With a rigorous program of study and a progressive continuum of work-based learning activities designed to build career awareness, exploration, and preparation, students gain the skills and knowledge needed to make informed choices and be successful in their future careers. NAF promotes open enrollment in our career academies, allowing students of all backgrounds and capabilities to participate and helping to address systemic, educational, and professional barriers faced by marginalized populations.

NAF Academies of Health Sciences (AOHS) are addressing the healthcare workforce shortage by equipping high school students with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need to pursue employment in the healthcare industry. Our academies teach industry-focused courses, such as anatomy and physiology, biotechnology, global health, and health careers, and allow students to gain career-specific knowledge and skills through hands-on, work-based learning activities with local industry professionals. Many academies provide the opportunity for students to earn certifications such as Certified Nursing Assistant, EKG Technician, Emergency Medical Technician, Certified Medical Administrative Assistant and countless others that increase employability and earning potential.

NAF specifically applauds inclusion of high school students and a focus on under-resourced communities within the establishment of a workforce innovation grant program for allied health professionals. Exposing high school students to career opportunities is a critical piece in building a future-ready healthcare workforce, as NAF knows first-hand. Further, prioritizing work-based learning within the healthcare sector will help students gain invaluable experience and an understanding that will foster an interest in pursuing careers in nursing, medicine, public health, and related fields.

We appreciate your leadership and efforts to strengthen the healthcare workforce pipeline across the country and strongly support the inclusion of high school students in these opportunities. Our nation's workforce needs cannot afford to ignore this prime cohort of students in preparing them for careers in healthcare. As NAF continues to prepare future healthcare workers for the country, we hope to have a supportive partner at the federal level with the establishment of these programs.

Sincerely,

*Colleen Devery*

**Colleen Devery**

Chief Strategy Officer | NAF